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ABSTRACT

Education policy should encourage liberty and equality of opportunity, political tolerance, respect for diversity, and citizenship. The authors compare current policy that uses family residence to assign students to schools with alternative policies that range from expanding public choice options to school vouchers. They identify the benefits and costs of each policy approach through a review of past research, the presentation of new empirical work, and legal and philosophical analyses. The chapters are: (1) "School Choice Options and Issues: An Overview"; (2) "The Outcomes of School Choice Policies"; (3) "Political Theory and School Choice" (coauthor, Richard Ruderman); (4) "Parent Rights, School Choice, and Equality of Opportunity" (coauthor, Jennifer L. Kemerer); (5) "Vouchers and Tax Benefits: Tradeoffs between Religious Freedom and Separation of Church and State"; (6) "The Economics of Choice"; (7) "School Choice Regulation: Accountability versus Autonomy"; and (8) "The Politics of Choice and a Proposed School Choice Policy." (Contains 8 figures, 14 tables, 526 endnotes and 219 references.) (SLD)

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